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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Hearing held, pursuant to notice, on the 8th
day of April, 2021, between the hours of 12:00 p.m.
and 12:50 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 3 Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, Co-Chairperson
Representative Jay Hoffman, Co-Chairperson
4 Representative Elizabeth Hernandez, Chairperson
Representative Tim Butler, Republican Spokesperson
5 Representative Avery Bourne, Member
Representative Kelly Burke, Member
6 Representative Ryan Spain, Member

7 Representative Carol Ammons
Representative Tom Bennett
8 Representative Adam Niemerg

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22 Court Reporter
Lydia Pinkawa, CSR
Illinois CSR #084-002342
23 Alaris Litigation Services
711 North Eleventh Street
24 St. Louis, Missouri 63101

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON GORDON-BOOTH: Good morning,
2 everyone. The House committee on redistricting shall
3 come to order. It is a great honor to be with you
4 all for the Champaign-Urbana redistricting hearing.
5 My name is Jehan Gordon-Booth and I happen to be
6 the state representative from the Peoria area,
7 specifically the 92nd district. I am, too, a member
8 of this redistricting committee and will be
9 co-chairing today's hearing with Leader Jay Hoffman.

10 I'd like to welcome all of the local
11 representatives who have decided to join us today.
12 I see, when I look through the -- I'm sorry, I'm
13 using my phone today. I'm having some challenges
14 with my computer. I see that we do have some local
15 representatives. I see that we have Leader Carol
16 Ammons, who's a leader in the Champaign-Urbana area
17 in the legislature. Leader Ammons, if you'd like to
18 make a few comments before we move forward.

19 REPRESENTATIVE AMMONS: Thank you, Leader
20 Gordon-Booth and Leader Hoffman, for hosting this
21 hearing in Champaign-Urbana or virtually in
22 Champaign-Urbana. Of course, we know previously we'd
23 all be together in some space discussing one of the
24 most important things that we can do for our

1 communities is to re-apportion it. And today
2 Champaign-Urbana, which is a thriving, growing
3 community, is probably one of very few communities
4 who's seen population growth. And so we are excited
5 about the work that we're doing in Champaign-Urbana
6 as a result of redistricting and keeping our
7 communities contiguous together, our twin cities.
8 And so Leader Booth, if you would allow me to
9 recognize a few other elected officials who have
10 joined us on this call, is that okay with you?

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON GORDON-BOOTH: Please.

12 REPRESENTATIVE AMMONS: Thank you. I would like
13 to certainly acknowledge county board member
14 Christopher Stohr, who is on this call. I see our
15 director, administrative director of our public
16 health, Ms. Julie Pryde has joined us. I also see
17 maybe Mike Ingram who's our recorder of deeds
18 currently is on the call. And I believe our
19 Cunningham Township assessor is either getting on the
20 call or is on the call. I can't see him. His name
21 is Wayne Williams. He is also on the call and was
22 very instrumental in working with the county board
23 when I was on the county board for the previous
24 redistricting hearings. And so I appreciate those

1 who have joined and those who will join at some
2 point. Perhaps we'll come back to them at a later
3 part of this hearing. So thank you, Leader Booth and
4 Leader Hoffman.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON GORDON-BOOTH: Thank you. You
6 know what, you are right when you say that the
7 Champaign-Urbana area is one of the few areas in the
8 state that has seen significant growth. I spent four
9 of the best years of my life in that community and
10 when I come back, each time I come back I see
11 something that I did not see before. And you know
12 the streets, you know the markers, but boy, oh, boy,
13 does it look different in a very good way. So
14 congratulations on helping to lead that community and
15 its growth in Champaign-Urbana.

16 Are there any other members -- oh,
17 Representative Bennett, I see you. You're in the
18 area as well, in that Champaign-Urbana region.
19 Representative Bennett, if you would have a few
20 comments.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BENNETT: Absolutely. Glad to
22 be with you today. My district just touches the
23 northern part of Champaign County, so we're next
24 door neighbors with Carol and glad to do so.

1 Champaign-Urbana is a thriving community, University
2 of Illinois, a number of things that are going on
3 there. So agriculture, of course, is big as well.
4 So thank you for that and looking forward to being
5 part of the conversation today. Thank you.

6 CO-CHAIRPERSON GORDON-BOOTH: Thank you. If
7 there are any other members in not just Champaign
8 Urbana but in the region, if you'd like to have
9 comments at this moment, please un-mute yourself and
10 do so. I don't see anybody jumping in. So with no
11 further adieu, we will go into our housekeeping
12 portion for the redistricting committee. Following
13 the housekeeping portion of the redistricting
14 committee, it will then be followed up with a very
15 informational presentation by staff that will kind of
16 lay out what this process is and some of the current
17 findings as it relates to demographic information as
18 it relates to census, et cetera. After that short
19 presentation, we will then be led into the panel
20 discussion by Leader Jay Hoffman. We'll culminate
21 and then you all will be able to have your Thursday
22 back.

23 I also want to thank everyone who has chosen
24 to participate in today's hearing. Your insight and

1 participation is as important as ever as we begin
2 this redistricting process under such unprecedented
3 times. The United States and the Illinois
4 constitution require the Illinois general assembly to
5 redraw political boundaries every ten years to
6 account for political shifts -- excuse me, to account
7 for population shifts.

8 These hearings are a very critical part to
9 that process. The House Democrats are dedicated to
10 transparency and public participation in the
11 redistricting process. While state law requires a
12 minimum of four public hearings throughout the state,
13 our committee intends to hold far more, present and
14 virtual, to create more availability for the public
15 to have access to this process. Our goal is to hear
16 from as many people as possible and to gain as much
17 information as possible about the diverse communities
18 of our state. Our staff have been making hundreds of
19 phone calls all over the state to encourage
20 individuals to participate in the upcoming hearings.
21 Those who wish to participate should be given the
22 opportunity to do so, period.

23 While we are holding a series of virtual as
24 well as in person hearings throughout the state, we

1 made some very key announcements early last month.
2 We announced a schedule of 23 hearings before we
3 would ever propose any kind of redistricting plan, 23
4 hearings. For comparison, in 2011, those of us who
5 were around back then, the House redistricting
6 committee held 17 hearings in total. So clearly as
7 you see with our current plan, we are holding quite a
8 few more than we did with our last redistricting
9 process. And that is in the interest of transparency
10 and public participation.

11 While we are guided in this endeavor by the
12 United States constitution, the Federal Voting Rights
13 Act, the Illinois constitution as well as the
14 Illinois Voting Rights Act, we are also interested in
15 any relevant demographic information such as social,
16 political, economic, religious or any other
17 characteristics that make your community unique.
18 We want to hear your specific views on any social,
19 political, economic, religious interests commonly
20 held in that community, any specific interest that
21 exists, any concerns that you have regarding the
22 current boundaries or alternatively, anything that
23 works well with your current boundaries and
24 suggestions for the drawing of new boundaries. In

1 short, we want to hear any testimony that is relevant
2 to the drawing of these new political boundaries in
3 your community.

4 This year, for the very first time, Illinois
5 residents will have the ability to participate in
6 this process from the comfort of your own home as
7 many of you are today, including through remote
8 participation in these hearings and by drawing of
9 their own maps via a web site. The public drawing
10 portal available at ILHouseDems.com, slash,
11 Redistricting allows any Illinois resident to draw
12 districts and share those maps with this committee
13 for our consideration.

14 The public may also submit written testimony
15 or other public comment to the committee by e-mailing
16 at RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.gov. All written
17 testimony, public comments and maps submitted to this
18 committee will be made publicly available at ILGA.gov
19 as well as ILHouseDems, slash, Redistricting.
20 Transcripts of this committee's hearing will also be
21 uploaded to these sites.

22 As for today, we will begin with a short
23 slide show that will be presented by Mr. Darren
24 Reinhardt. Following that brief presentation, we

1 will have a number of witnesses who will be indicated
2 by Leader Jay Hoffman who have a desire to testify
3 today. If you have written testimony prepared, we
4 would ask that you submit that testimony to us and
5 just briefly summarize your oral presentation in the
6 interest of time. With that stated, we will next, as
7 a part of our process we will be moving to recognize
8 Leader, excuse me, we would recognize the minority
9 spokesperson, Leader Butler.

10 But before we do that, I would like to also
11 recognize the other members who have decided to join
12 us today that aren't from the Champaign-Urbana area
13 but they are either, one, a part of the committee or
14 two, they're just interested in the redistricting
15 process and want to learn as much as possible about
16 this once in a decade process. So with us today, we
17 also have Representative Avery Bourne. Leader Avery
18 Bourne, thank you for being with us. We also have
19 Representative Adam Niemerg. Did I say that right?
20 I have a special name, too, so I like people to get
21 it right. Thank you, Representative Niemerg. We
22 also have with us -- that might be it. No, that's
23 not it. We have Leader Kelly Burke. Leader Kelly
24 Burke, thank you for being with us and I want to send

1 a huge congratulations over to you. We have Leader
2 Ryan Spain who is with us who was my friend and
3 neighbor. Ryan Spain, thank you for being with us
4 this afternoon. And we also have the other co-chair
5 for this redistricting committee, Leader Lisa
6 Hernandez. Leader Hernandez, thank you for being
7 with us this afternoon.

8 So with no further adieu, we will recognize
9 minority spokesperson Leader Tim Butler for comment.
10 We will then go to our short presentation from
11 Mr. Reinhardt. We will then go to Leader Hoffman in
12 that order. Thank you. Leader Butler.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Leader
14 Gordon-Booth. I appreciate the opportunity and I
15 appreciate to hear from the folks in the
16 Champaign-Urbana area today on redistricting. I did
17 have, you know, a question. I know you've mentioned
18 the 23 hearings. We've heard that on each of the
19 hearings that we've had. And I'm wondering if
20 there's been any decisions made from the majority
21 about how many hearings will be scheduled after your
22 maps are revealed. I know we've had these hearings
23 before, but there hasn't really been a lot of
24 discussion about maps being, or excuse me, hearings

1 being scheduled for after the maps are revealed,
2 which has been a request in multiple hearings that
3 we've heard.

4 CO-CHAIRPERSON GORDON-BOOTH: I appreciate that
5 question, Leader Butler. We're still looking into
6 that and we're certainly going to get back to you
7 with a response. We don't have a response as of yet,
8 but we promise to get back to you on that.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay, I appreciate that.
10 The other thing I will say, I'm glad Representative
11 Niemerg is on here, but I think it underscores a
12 problem that I pointed out yesterday. There are only
13 two hearings scheduled for geographic areas south of
14 Interstate 72. There's one scheduled for Carbondale
15 on the 17th and there's one scheduled for East
16 St. Louis this Sunday morning at 11 a.m. And there's
17 hardly any scheduled for western Illinois. In fact,
18 I would say there's none scheduled for western
19 Illinois at all. I guess we could say Rock Island is
20 in western Illinois, but that's far north to a lot of
21 people.

22 So there's large parts of the state, western,
23 eastern and southern Illinois that are not being
24 represented in these hearings. And I think it's no

1 surprise that large areas represented in those areas
2 are also represented solely by Republicans. And so
3 we have communities such as Macomb, such as Quincy,
4 such as Effingham that are not represented in these
5 hearings through the hearings that we've had. So I'm
6 glad Representative Niemerg is on today because I
7 think this is the closest hearing to the district
8 that he represents. But I would please ask the
9 majority, if we're going to schedule more hearings,
10 there are other areas of the state just besides
11 either areas that are split Republican or Democrat or
12 solely by Democrat control that also deserve to be
13 heard in this redistricting process as well. So with
14 that, look forward to hearing from the witnesses
15 today and I'm sure we'll have some questions on
16 things. Thank you, Leader Gordon-Booth.

17 CO-CHAIRPERSON GORDON-BOOTH: Thank you, Leader
18 Butler. If we could go and move directly to our
19 presentation and then you will be hearing for the
20 remainder of this hearing from Leader Hoffman.

21 MR. REINHARDT: Hello, everyone. My name is
22 Darrin Reinhardt, D-a-r-r-i-n, R-e-i-n-h-a-r-d-t.
23 I'm an employee with the Illinois House of
24 Representatives and I'm here to give a brief overview

1 of the state's redistricting procedure. I'll briefly
2 discuss the background of redistricting and the
3 redistricting process in Illinois. I'll also be
4 going over federal and state redistricting
5 requirements and guidelines. Finally, we'll be
6 looking at what preliminary data reveals about
7 population trends in the state and region.

8 Redistricting is a process that ensures all
9 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation
10 in the state legislature and federal Congress as
11 guaranteed by the United States Constitution. The
12 U.S. Supreme Court held a series of rulings in the
13 1960's that congressional and state legislative
14 districts in each state must be of approximately
15 equal population, establishing the principle of one
16 person, one vote. As a result, states redraw their
17 congressional and state districts every ten years to
18 reflect changes in population.

19 The timeline for redrawing the legislative
20 maps are based on the Illinois constitution. The
21 constitution gives the Illinois legislature the
22 initial responsibility of passing the new legislative
23 map. Both the state House and the state Senate must
24 pass a plan, which then must be signed by the

1 governor.

2 If a new map does not go into effect by the
3 constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibility
4 for creating a new map passes from the legislature to
5 a legislative redistricting commission. The
6 commission will consist of eight members, with two
7 each appointed by the legislative leaders -- by
8 legislative leaders and no more than four from the
9 same political party. A majority of five or more
10 commission members will constitute final approval of
11 a new map.

12 However, if a commission does not agree to a
13 map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court will
14 submit two names, one from each party, to the
15 Illinois secretary of state, who will then choose one
16 name at random to serve as the ninth member of the
17 commission. Five of the nine members of the
18 commission must agree to a plan no later than
19 October 5th.

20 In order to understand the process of
21 creating new districts, we must look at some legal
22 guiding principles. First among these is equal
23 population. Congressional districts must be nearly
24 equal in population, while state districts must be

1 substantially equal population. Federal and state
2 law also require that all districts be contiguous,
3 which means that parts of a district must be next to
4 each other unless connected by water. Annexations
5 and unincorporated areas, municipalities and counties
6 sometimes mean that communities are discontinuous.
7 However, congressional and state districts must be
8 adjacent or connected at all points.

9 The most difficult requirement to define is
10 compactness. There are at least 30 different
11 scientific ways to measure how compact a district is,
12 but no statute or court precedent identifies standard
13 criteria of compactness. In theory, compactness
14 focuses on the shape of a district's boundaries, how
15 spread out a district is from a central core or where
16 the district's population center of gravity is. In
17 practice, compactness is hindered by geography and on
18 the ground realities. So often the interpretation
19 of compactness involves more than a visual test.

20 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its
21 House districts, also called represented districts,
22 inside one of its Senate districts, also called
23 legislative districts. Map makers will also look,
24 where possible, to follow existing political and

1 geographical boundaries in ways that maximize a
2 community's opportunity to have its interests
3 represented. As you know, however, county,
4 municipality, township and natural geographic
5 boundaries are not always compact or contiguous.

6 By setting population data and holding public
7 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of
8 residents across the state, law makers look to
9 identify what are known as communities of interest.
10 A community of interest is a group of people
11 concentrated in a geographic area where socially,
12 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously or
13 otherwise alike can be joined in a district to most
14 effectively have their voices heard. The factors
15 contributing to any particular community of interest
16 will vary throughout the state. Federal law requires
17 redistricting plans to represent -- to respect
18 minority representation.

19 The principles of the Federal Voting Rights
20 Act are in place to prevent the reduction of
21 opportunities for minority populations to participate
22 equally in the electoral process. However, districts
23 cannot be drawn solely on the basis of race.
24 Illinois also protects representation of racial and

1 language minority groups. The Illinois Voting Rights
2 Act helps to prevent minority fracturing or dividing
3 of concentration of minorities among two or more
4 districts by requiring map makers to consider
5 creating crossover districts, coalition districts or
6 influence districts. A crossover district is one in
7 which large minority groups may elect the candidate
8 of its choice with the help of voters from the
9 majority group. A coalition district brings multiple
10 racial or language minority groups together to elect
11 a candidate of their choice. An influence district
12 allows a group to influence an election outcome
13 without being the majority population in a district.
14 These state law requirements come into play only
15 after compliance with federal law and U.S. and state
16 constitutional requirements on redistricting.

17 In addition, the law ensures transparency and
18 public participation by requiring public hearings
19 across the state, one of which we are holding right
20 now. At the end of the presentation, we'll display
21 an e-mail address on the screen Leader Gordon-Booth
22 already provided where you can submit your ideas.
23 The committee is also accepting written testimony
24 today.

1 Now that we've covered the redistricting
2 process, let us discuss what the data shows about
3 Illinois population. The U.S. Census Bureau has
4 delayed the release of much of the decennial census
5 data by more than six months until this fall.
6 However, the U.S. Census Bureau's annual population
7 estimates show some trends that can help inform the
8 work ahead. The census 2019 population estimate
9 shows an overall decline in state population over the
10 past decade. There are, however, areas that are
11 projected to have population gains. Communities with
12 the largest population by percentage increase since
13 2010 are Kendall, Monroe, Champaign and Kane
14 counties.

15 Demographically speaking, the state's white
16 population is set to decline, while African-American
17 population statewide is likely to see a smaller
18 overall decline. The Hispanic and Asian population
19 across Illinois are projected to see growth.
20 Locally, Champaign County's population stands to
21 increase, while the white population is likely to
22 drop slightly. The African-American, Hispanic and
23 Asian populations will likely see growth over the
24 past decade.

1 Thank you so much for your attention and for
2 coming out to share your thoughts today. As the
3 Chair mentioned, you'll be able to find testimony
4 from this and other hearings on ILGA.gov and on
5 ILHouseDems.com, slash, Redistricting. The
6 redistricting web site offers additional ways to
7 engage with the process, including our public drawing
8 portal where you can draw and submit your own
9 district maps. You can send further written
10 testimony and suggestions to the committee at any
11 time by e-mailing Redistricting Committee at
12 HDS.ILGA.gov. Thank you so much.

13 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you, Darrin. We
14 appreciate the presentation. Leader Butler, if we
15 could then move into the witnesses. And if you,
16 along the way, or any of your members have any
17 questions or any of our members, we will proceed
18 after each witness or after each panel. Is that
19 okay?

20 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Sure. Leader Hoffman,
21 how many panels do we have today, do we know?

22 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: We are scheduled to have
23 two panels, but it appears at this point there are
24 only members from one of the panels. And then there

1 are individuals who are proponents, two individuals
2 who are here to give, I believe, some oral testimony
3 as well.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay, sounds good.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: So we should be,
6 hopefully it won't take up all of our Thursday
7 afternoon.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: So I'll begin by reading
10 the proponents that have filed with the clerk's
11 office. Marci Adelston-Schafer is a proponent.
12 Marcey Goldstein, Mary King. And then we have on the
13 Zoom today Christopher Stohr, who is with the
14 Champaign County board and Mike Ingram who is with
15 Champaign County as well. If we could, we would
16 start with you, Christopher, if you're ready to
17 proceed.

18 MR. STOHR: Thank you, Representative Jay Hoffman
19 and the other representatives. I appreciate the
20 opportunity to appear before you. I am curious how
21 weights for demographic information such as gender,
22 race, income and so forth will be used in defining or
23 in drawing districts. Thank you.

24 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: So that's a -- would you

1 like to give a statement as well, Mr. Stohr, or just
2 questions?

3 MR. STOHR: I think that's more of a question
4 because this is something that would be of interest
5 to us here in Champaign County as we draw our own
6 maps. And I realize that this is more of a technical
7 question. I think that Mr. Reinhardt talked about
8 this in the compactness. But I'd like to hear from
9 anybody else who cares to comment on that.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: So what I would say to
11 you is that there is a body of law, Supreme Court
12 laws that indicate what can and cannot be taken into
13 account when you make determinations as to
14 redistricting. I believe that those laws apply not
15 only to the the redistricting of the general
16 assembly. It would also apply to county board
17 redistricting. We -- I believe that there are
18 handbooks that could be made available to you. I'm
19 sure that your state's attorney is well aware of
20 those laws and could provide the legal opinions and
21 the legal advice regarding your redistricting.
22 However, these hearings are about general assembly
23 redistricting. Obviously congressional redistricting
24 can be brought up or even the county board

1 redistricting, but we are really focusing on general
2 assembly redistricting.

3 MR. STOHR: I don't think you quite understood
4 the question. And if there's anybody else that can
5 kind of help me with this, I'd appreciate it. When
6 you, you know, having done a bit of mapping since the
7 1970's using various types of computer programs and
8 so forth, you know, selecting groups or designating a
9 number of groups or categories, you can set weights
10 to certain categories in making -- in drawing these.
11 And I was curious if, you know, this was something
12 that was -- how these were going to be determined.
13 I don't know how to explain any further than that in
14 and I'll end my comments and questions with that,
15 thank you.

16 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you. Does
17 anybody --

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So Mr. Stohr, I
19 appreciate your question, I really do, because I
20 think those of us on the Republican side have a lot
21 of the same questions as to how and what data will be
22 used to draw the maps. And sitting here today, and I
23 think this is the 14th hearing we've had so far, we
24 have no idea, to be honest with you. As Leader

1 Hoffman said, there is some case law that guides
2 especially minority participation, minority
3 representation in redistricting, but a lot of the
4 other things that you mentioned, it's kind of wide
5 open.

6 One of the things that gets considered in
7 Illinois that some other states have kicked out of
8 their consideration is political data. And that is
9 used very well in Illinois to slice and dice
10 districts, state House districts, congressional
11 districts, things like that. And my guess is when we
12 get down to the end of the day when the maps are
13 revealed here in short order, that there's going to
14 be a heavy dose of political data used in the maps
15 that are drawn by the majority for partisan political
16 advantage, very honestly.

17 Again, I appreciate your question because I
18 think we have the same questions as members of the
19 legislature as well, especially since the data that
20 we need, the decennial census data will not be
21 available at least until mid August at the earliest,
22 if not into September. So using outdated data or
23 American Community Survey data is not the same and
24 gets to the heart of your question about what exactly

1 is the demographic data that we're going to use. We
2 won't have the right data in time if the legislature
3 decides to draw the maps by the end of June. So I
4 appreciate your question.

5 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Stohr.
6 We will now move to Mr. Mike Ingram. Mr. Ingram,
7 please proceed.

8 MR. INGRAM: Is it actually working?

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Yes, it is.

10 MR. INGRAM: Sorry, I haven't used the office
11 computer to actually speak on Zoom. Actually, I
12 think everything that I was going to speak on and ask
13 has already been covered. So I wanted to thank
14 everybody being here and luckily just managed to run
15 back into my office after helping somebody out. So I
16 appreciate all your time and thanks to everybody for
17 being here today and I've got nothing else.

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ingram.
19 So we'll now move to two individuals who have joined
20 us. Ms. Gloria Yen who is with, who's the director
21 of the University YMCA and Julie Pryde, who is the
22 Champaign-Urbana public health director. We, I guess
23 Gloria, if you are on, please proceed. There you
24 are.

1 MS. YEN: Thank you, Leader Hoffman. Good
2 afternoon, Chair Hernandez and honorable members of
3 this committee. I've prepared a statement that I'm
4 going to read, so thank you very much for the
5 opportunity to engage with the redistricting process.

6 As Leader Hoffman shared, my name is Gloria
7 Yen and I am the director of the new American welcome
8 center at the University YMCA in Champaign, Illinois,
9 where we work each and every day to ensure equitable
10 access to services, economic opportunity and
11 meaningful belonging for the 25,000, which is roughly
12 12 percent of foreign born individuals living in
13 Champaign County from over 115 countries, including
14 the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, China
15 and so many more.

16 Between April of 2019 and September of 2020,
17 we worked really, really hard for a fair census count
18 through a global pandemic, as you all know, no less,
19 to create an accurate picture of our community that
20 is inclusive of historically undercounted
21 communities. Because as was stated earlier in this
22 meeting, we are one of the only communities in
23 Illinois that has actually grown in the past ten
24 years. And so we wanted to make sure that whether

1 folks were foreign born, racial or ethnic minorities,
2 limited English proficiency, low income renters,
3 children under five, people living in multi-family
4 housing, we wanted to make sure that there was a fair
5 and accurate count. And we knew that we had an
6 uphill battle in Champaign County, where 51 percent
7 of our foreign born population entered the U.S. after
8 the 2010 census. That means that over one in two
9 people in our community had never even been counted
10 by the census before and were not included in 2011
11 redistricting efforts.

12 So with representation and federal resources
13 as much as \$1400 per person based on some
14 calculations on the line, we pushed against fear and
15 anxiety and communities impacted by immigration
16 policies, against the chilling effect of the
17 citizenship question that was ultimately blocked by
18 the U.S. Supreme Court. We also addressed mistrust
19 of government, wariness about confidentiality and
20 data security. We set up hubs, we went door to door,
21 we trained existing and emerging community leaders,
22 we conducted presentations in schools and faith
23 communities, we educated clients, we stationed
24 ourselves at COVID testing sites and we ensured

1 language access, all to demystify the process of the
2 census and we fought through the digital divide that
3 was exacerbated by the public health crisis.

4 Meaningful belonging to our community means
5 reflective representation. It means equitable
6 distribution of resources and civic engagement. And
7 I'm really proud to know that together, we
8 contributed to the state's national ranking of being
9 seventh overall in census self-response and actually
10 first in states with a population of over 9 million
11 people. So with the state's \$29 million
12 appropriation, \$695,000 which is directed to us here
13 in northeast central region and administered by
14 public health which you'll hear from after this, the
15 state of Illinois made the highest per capita
16 investment in census efforts in the nation.

17 So I'm here today to ask that you see that
18 commitment through, that you steward the deposit of
19 trust in government that folks made in completing the
20 census and to not only allow redistricting efforts to
21 be informed by block level census data from the
22 Bureau that will be released in September but to also
23 engage in ongoing participatory input from
24 communities after the proposed maps are drawn.

1 I think that unprecedented circumstances call
2 for a different approach. The self-response period
3 itself nationally was extended, first from July 31st
4 to October 15th. And the apportionment counts were
5 extended as well, from December 31st to April 30th,
6 and now redistricting data from March 31st to
7 September 30th. Our community looks very, very
8 different today than it looked ten years ago or even
9 five years ago. And I believe that everyone deserves
10 to be counted and to be accounted for in
11 redistricting efforts. Thank you.

12 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you very much.
13 We'll now turn to Julie Pryde, who is the
14 Champaign-Urbana public health director. And then we
15 will go to questions of Ms. Yen and Ms. Pryde.
16 Please proceed.

17 MS. PRYDE: Hi. My name is Julie Pryde. I'm the
18 administrator of the Champaign-Urbana public health
19 district. Thank you for this opportunity to address
20 you today. At Champaign-Urbana public health
21 district, we are committed to the hard work of
22 eliminating health disparities in our community and
23 the state. While the Affordable Care Act expanded
24 access to medical care to millions who did not have

1 it before, it is just one piece of the puzzle. While
2 some of the factors that influence a person's health
3 are directly related to access to medical care, a
4 full 40 percent is due to other central determinants
5 of health. These include safe, affordable housing,
6 employment opportunities that include a living wage
7 and benefits such as paid leave and health insurance,
8 safe and walkable neighborhoods, access to
9 educational opportunities and access to healthy
10 foods.

11 In order to create more opportunities to
12 eliminate health disparities, local government and
13 public health need assistance from federal and state
14 government. When districts eliminate the voices of
15 the very people who most need assistance, very little
16 progress can be made. The COVID-19 pandemic has
17 shined a very bright light on the disparities that
18 have been here all along. We see them every day,
19 Gloria and I both do. Persons who were already
20 suffering were the most likely to become infected
21 with COVID through their jobs which were deemed
22 essential. And while they were deemed essential
23 enough to force people in to work, they were not
24 always treated as essential enough to pay a living

1 wage, offer protective measures or even allowed for
2 paid sick leave. These most vulnerable workers were
3 the same ones who were least likely to have early and
4 equitable access to vaccine.

5 Champaign-Urbana public health district
6 believes that redistricting is a tool that can ensure
7 health equity. Representation is crucial if we are
8 to eliminate the conditions that lead to the
9 disparities and shorter life spans. This is very
10 noticeable, how this works, when you look at life
11 expectancies in various states and some of their
12 policies that are present. For example, in
13 California, the life expectancy is 81.3 years
14 compared to Mississippi, with a life expectancy of
15 74.9 years. Just in Champaign County alone, we range
16 from a life expectancy of 83, or I'm sorry,
17 88.3 percent to 71.9 percent. And that's within the
18 same county. Much of this is due to structural
19 racism and policies that impacted families for
20 generations.

21 I urge you to move forward with redistricting
22 as soon as possible to ensure that communities are
23 represented fairly and have equal opportunities that
24 can literally extend their lives in addition to

1 improving the quality of their lives. I also
2 encourage you to look at public health data when
3 you're doing this map drawing, because our data that
4 we have can get very granular and show where the
5 health disparities exist. You can then overlay those
6 over other maps and see where some of the situations
7 are. Thank you again for this opportunity.

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you. I see that
9 major -- minority spokesman Leader Butler has a
10 question.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I like that mistake. You
12 can call me majority. I'd love to have that someday,
13 Jay. That would be great. I appreciate that. Thank
14 you, Ms. Pryde and Ms. Yen. Ms. Yen, I really -- let
15 me see if I wrote this down correctly. Did you use
16 the phrase, about the \$695,000 on the complete
17 counting, that steward that deposit in government?
18 Did I catch that correctly? Is that what you said?

19 MS. YEN: I said steward the deposit of trust in
20 government.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Steward that deposit of
22 trust in government. That's a wonderful phrase. And
23 you hit on so much that we've been talking about in
24 these hearings. Because we did spend great treasure,

1 both federal and state moneys to make sure that
2 everyone, to the best of our ability, was counted in
3 the census. And you highlighted the great lengths
4 that we went to in Illinois and the success that we
5 had in Illinois. And if we aren't going to use that
6 effort to draw our legislative and congressional
7 maps, we've wasted, largely wasted that money.

8 And that's my fear, is that in the push for
9 the majority to try to get maps done by June 30th,
10 which is what they would like to do, that they're
11 going to use old data, they're going to use American
12 Community Survey data. And as you said, the
13 community, the greater Champaign-Urbana community is
14 not the same that it was ten years ago nor five years
15 ago, yet that is the data that will be used if it's
16 moved forward using American Community Survey data or
17 looking at data when the maps were drawn ten years
18 ago.

19 So I really appreciate what you said. The
20 ACS data is not the way to go. It undercounts
21 minority communities. That's been testified to in
22 these hearings and everything. So I really
23 appreciate what you said. I mean, there's a lot of
24 us agree with you on that. And I hope the members of

1 the majority party are listening because this is
2 something that comes up time and time again in these
3 hearings, the problems with old data and how that's
4 going to impact how the district lines are drawn. So
5 thank you for your testimony and I appreciate all
6 your work that you did on the census and making sure
7 that everyone is counted.

8 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you. Any further
9 questions of Ms. Yen or Ms. Pryde? Thank you for
10 your testimony.

11 I do see, I have one more housekeeping, bit
12 of housekeeping that I need to take care of. We did
13 receive no position written testimony that was
14 submitted by a Mr. Ryan Tolley, who is with Change
15 Illinois. And finally, I see on my screen but there
16 has not been a witness slip filled out, a witness by
17 the name of Mr. Wayne Williams. Mr. Williams, this
18 is a public forum, so you certainly could testify if
19 you would like. But I would ask that following your
20 testimony, if that's your purpose to be on the Zoom
21 call, the Zoom meeting today, I would ask that you
22 file a witness slip at ILGA.gov at that time.
23 Mr. Williams. He must not want to testify.

24 If I could, Leader Butler, I would just

1 like -- I think that concludes the witnesses that we
2 have today. I would just like to ask Mister, or
3 Representative Bennett and possibly Representative
4 Ammons, who are the two local representatives, to
5 give any type of closing remarks they would like to
6 give and then we will stand in recess to the call of
7 the chair. Mr. Bennett? Representative Bennett,
8 sorry.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BENNETT: Thank you, Leader
10 Hoffman. I appreciate that. And the
11 Champaign-Urbana area is a tremendously rich area,
12 I believe, in terms of just a number of things with
13 diversity and agriculture and small business and of
14 course, the University of Illinois. And I hope the
15 things we shared today will be brought forth before
16 the decision makers who put this together. And this
17 is very important, what we try to do here going
18 forward. A number -- how many committees meetings
19 have you had so far? 20 some? Is that the number?

20 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I've attended 14.

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: We have 23 scheduled.
22 And Tim has been part of 14 of them so far, is that
23 right?

24 REPRESENTATIVE BENNETT: Thank you, Tim.

1 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: My workload has been a
2 little less, thank goodness.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BENNETT: I appreciate those that
4 were able to participate today. This is important.
5 This is going to impact our state for a number of
6 years down the road and we want to make sure we have
7 the right data, the right representation of
8 reflection of the people in our community. So thank
9 you very much.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you,
11 Representative. Leader Ammons.

12 REPRESENTATIVE AMMONS: Thank, Leader Hoffman.
13 Thank you to those who took time out of their
14 schedule today to testify at this hearing. I just
15 want to clarify a couple things. Champaign-Urbana is
16 a not only growing community, but we take it very
17 seriously to enfranchise in Champaign County. We
18 want to make sure that every single person, and I
19 agree, I worked the census myself, that every single
20 person is not only represented and counted, but that
21 we also meet our legal obligations as a state
22 legislative body.

23 So I understand that people are having
24 discussions about which set of data we should use.

1 However that data is selected and chosen, however it
2 comes out from these discussions, what is most
3 important is that the legislative body meets its
4 legal obligation to provide a map at the time that
5 we're supposed to by state statute. And so we will
6 look forward to the work that will be done by this
7 panel. I thank those of you who are serving on this
8 panel to make sure that we are able to meet our legal
9 obligation and that we take the responsibility as
10 members of the general assembly that we are supposed
11 to do according to the Illinois constitution.

12 And so with that, I thank Julie Pryde for her
13 time this afternoon. I thank Gloria Yen from the
14 University YMCA and Dr. Chris Stohr from Champaign
15 County board, Mike Ingram, our county recorder for
16 sitting through and listening to the subject matter
17 hearing. And I look forward to the other multitude
18 of hearings that you all will have in the next few
19 days. With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your
20 time and turn it back over to you.

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you, Leader
22 Ammons. And with that, first of all, thank you,
23 Champaign-Urbana, for your participation. Thank you
24 for everything that you do not only for the state but

1 educating the citizens, the young people of Illinois.
2 And with that, the House redistricting committee
3 shall stand adjourned until the call of the Chair.
4 Thank you, everybody.

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
2 CITY OF SPRINGFIELD)

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4 I, LYDIA B. PINKAWA, a Certified Shorthand
5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the meeting
6 aforementioned was held at the time previously
7 described.

8

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
10 hand and seal.

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